

“It is greatly aggrieved to the science by unrevealing such a precious town...”: Activities of Czech archaeologists in Greece, Turkey and Italy in 19th and early 20th century
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Abstract

Bachelor thesis is dealing with the archaeological activities of Czech pioneers of Classical archaeology in 19th and early 20th century, conducted on the territories of modern-day Greece, Turkey and Italy. It will focus mainly on the research of the three personalities: baron Frantisek Arnost Koller (1767-1826), Matej Milota Zdirad Polak (1788-1856) and Vaclav Sejk (1851-1933). A soldier and diplomat baron Koller acted as a commissary general in Naples in the years 1815-18 and 1821-26. On that occasion he conducted small-scale excavations in Pompeii (and elsewhere) and also collected ancient artefacts from those sites and other areas of the ancient world as well. These excavations were recorded and described by his adjutant M. M. Z. Polak in his book (travelogue) “A journey to Italy” (1820-22). Vaclav Sejk participated as an architect/draughtsman in several archaeological projects in Greece (e.g. Sparta, Crete, Paros) and Turkey (e.g. Troy), where he even conducted his own small-scale excavations (!). However, in the Czech historiography and history of archaeology he is virtually unknown.

Keywords

Classical archaeology, history, archaeological excavations, Greece, Italy, Turkey